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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED  
EXAMINING GROUP 3623  
PATENT**

Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 07781.0013-00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Stefan HACK et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 3623
	)	
Application No.: 09/609,714	)	Examiner: Heck, Michael C.
	)	
Filed: June 30, 2000	)	
	)	
For: VALUE CHAIN OPTIMIZATION	)	Confirmation No.: 2503
SYSTEM AND METHOD	)	

**Mail Stop AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Sir:

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

In reply to the Final Office Action mailed May 17, 2005, the period for response which extends through August 17, 2005, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, Applicants propose that this application be amended as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** follow the amendment section of this paper.